

Dear Ms. Blacato

I am writing in very strong support of the following bills.

- S.B. 43: AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT;
- S.B. 90: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT;
- H.B. 5254: AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT.

Last year, the MDC reservoir area in West Hartford was nearly shut to outside users due to liability concerns. That would have been a tragedy. The MDC area is used by hundreds of people every day (possibly thousands at weekends) for walking and cycling. This area is a major factor in the quality of life in West Hartford and surrounding towns. The thought that access to this beautiful place for exercise and recreation may be taken away from us is simply heartbreaking. I travel through the MDC area twice a day on my bicycle as I commute from my home near Hall High School in West Hartford to the UConn Health Center; I do this ~16 mile round trip every day for ~10 months of the year (depending on the winter weather - I will admit that this year so far has been a bit tough). Not only is this a beautiful route, but it also allows me to avoid cycling through the busy commercial area around the CVS and Stop & Shop on Farmington Avenue. I urge the legislature to solve the liability issues that would allow both walkers and cyclists to retain access to the MDC and other recreational areas. In an era when there is a concerted effort to get people to exercise more, removing public access to recreational areas for liability concerns will have very negative effects, severely impacts the quality of life in Connecticut and sends completely the wrong message.

Thank you for your consideration

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